AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently amended) In an application server communicatively coupled to a layer-2 gateway device, the layer-2 gateway device and a user device having established therebetween a communications session that supports a first quality of service level, a method for managing the communications session established between the layer-2 gateway device and the user device, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

receiving a request forwarded by the layer-2 gateway device that originated from the user device;

wherein the request is a request for a particular application service provided by the application server and not an express request to change the quality of service level supported by the communications session;

determining based upon the request for the particular application service and policy criteria, a second quality of service level to be supported by the communications session;

sending a message to the layer-2 gateway device that specifies a quality of service profile for the second quality of service level to be supported by the communications session;

wherein the step of sending a message causes the layer-2 gateway device to make a layer-2 change in a communications link used for the communications session so that the communications session supports the second quality of service level instead of the first quality of service level; and

receiving an acknowledgement from the layer-2 gateway device that indicates that a layer-2 change was made in a communications link used for the communications session.

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of sending a message to the layer-2 gateway device causes a modification of session context data maintained by the layer-2 gateway device and associated with the communications session.

4.   (Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:

sending to the layer-2 gateway device an Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting Change of Authorization (CoA) message that specifies a quality of service profile for the second quality of service level.

5.   (Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the first and second quality of service levels each specifies an amount of bandwidth to be allocated to the user device.

6.   (Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the user device is a wireless device.

7.   (Canceled)

8.   (Currently amended) An application server capable of being communicatively coupled to a layer-2 gateway device, the layer 2 gateway device and a user device having established therebetween a communications session that supports a first quality of service level, the application server being configured to:

receive a request forwarded by the layer-2 gateway device that originated from the user device;

wherein the request is a request for a particular application service provided by the application server and not an express request to change the quality of service level supported by the communications session;

determine based upon the request for the service and policy criteria, a second quality of service level to be supported by the communications session;

send a message to the layer-2 gateway device that specifies a quality of service profile for the second quality of service level to be supported by the communications session thereby causing the layer-2 gateway device to make a layer-2 change in a communications link used for the communications session so that the communications session supports the second quality of service level instead of the first quality of service level; and

receive an acknowledgement from the layer-2 gateway device that indicates that a layer-2 change was made in a communications link used for the communications session.

9.   (Canceled)

10.   (Previously presented) The application server as recited in Claim 8, wherein the application server is further configured to send a message to the layer 2 gateway device that specifies a quality of service profile for the second quality of service level thereby causing the layer-2 gateway device to modify session context data maintained by the ~~at a~~ layer-2 gateway device and associated with the communications session.

11.   (Previously presented) The application server as recited in Claim 8, wherein the application server apparatus is further configured to generate and send to the layer-2 gateway device an Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting Change of Authorization (CoA) message that specifies a quality of service profile for the second quality of service level.

12.   (Previously presented) The application server as recited in Claim 8, wherein the first and second quality of service levels each specifies an amount of bandwidth to be allocated to the user device.

13.   (Previously presented) The application server as recited in Claim 8, wherein the user device is a wireless device.

14.   (Canceled)

15.   (Currently amended) An application server capable of being communicatively coupled to a layer-2 gateway device, the layer-2 gateway device and a user device having established therebetween a communications session that supports a first quality of service level, the application server comprising:
means for receiving a request forwarded by the layer-2 gateway device that originated
        from the user device;
wherein the request is a request for a particular application service provided by the
        application server <u>and not an express request to change the quality of service level</u>
        <u>supported by the communications session</u>;
means for determining based upon the request for the particular application service and
        policy criteria, a second quality of service level to be supported by the
        communications session;

means for sending a message to the layer-2 gateway device that specifies a quality of service profile for the second quality of service level to be supported by the communications session;

wherein the means for sending a message is operable to cause the layer-2 device gateway to make a layer-2 change in a communications link used for the communications session so that the communications session supports the second quality of service level instead of the first quality of service level; and

means for receiving an acknowledgement from the layer-2 gateway device that indicates that a layer-2 change was made in a communications link used for the communications session.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) The application server as recited in Claim 15, wherein the means for sending a message further comprises means for sending a message to the layer-2 gateway device that specifies a quality of service profile for the second quality of service level thereby causing the layer-2 gateway device to modify session context data maintained by the layer-2 gateway device and associated with the communications session.

18. (Previously presented) The application server as recited in Claim 15, wherein the application server further comprises means for generating and sending to the layer-2 gateway an Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting Change of Authorization (CoA) message that specifies a quality of service profile for the second quality of service level.

19. (Previously presented) The application server as recited in Claim 18, wherein the application server further comprises means for specifying the quality of service profile for the second quality of service level using a vendor-specific attribute containing the 3rd Generation Partnership Project 3GPP-Negotiated-QoS attribute.

20. (Previously presented) The apparatus as recited in Claim 15, wherein the first and second quality of service levels each specifies an amount of bandwidth to be allocated to the user device.

21.   (Previously presented) The apparatus as recited in Claim 15, wherein the user device is a wireless device.

22.   (Canceled)